[7th August 1965

Tanks, Uranis, etc., in the Dindigul Municipal limits

* 80 Q.—Sri N. R. THIAGARAJAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of tanks, Uranis, teppams and stagnant pits within the Dindigul municipal limits :

(b) whether they are all necessary even after the introduction of the drinking water supply scheme;

(*c*) the area, in acres, with small rocky hills within the Dindigul town ; and

(*d*) whether there is any proposal to level these areas and bring them under use?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH :

(*a*) There are 13 tanks, one Urani and one teppam within the Municipal limits. There is no stagnant pit.

(b) They are not necessary. But some tanks are utilized for cultivation purposes.

(*c*) Eighty acres—22,262 square feet.

(*d*) No.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note*.—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT *re.* MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : I have received a message from the Hon. Speaker, Legislative Assembly, transmiting a copy of the Madras City Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1965 (L.A. Bill No. 16 of 1965) as passed by the Legislative Assembly and signed by him for the concurrence of the Council.

III.—CALLING ATTENTION TO NON-AVAILABILITY OF DIESEL AND KEROSENE.

திரு. க. அன்பழகன் : மதிப்பிற்குரிய தலைவர் அவர்களே, அண்மையில் தமிழகத்தில் டீசல் எண்ணெய்யும், கெரசின் எண்ணெய்யும் போதிய அளவு கிடைக்காத நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டிருப்பதால் அவைகளைப் பயன் படுத்தும் பல்வேறு தொழில்கள் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன என்பதையும், இதன் காரணமாக லாரி முதலிய போக்குவரத்து சாதனங்கள் பயன்படுத்தப்பட முடியாத நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பதையும் மதிப்பிற்குரிய தொழில் அமைச்சரின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டு வருகிறேன். இது மிகப் பெரிய நெருக்கடி என்பதால், இத்தகைய நிலைமை மீண்டும் தோன்றாதிருக்க வேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறேன். இந்த நிலைமைக்கு மதிப்பிற்குரிய தொழில் அமைச்சர் விளக்கம் தருவார் என்று நம்புகிறேன்.

7th August 1965]

* THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to make the following statement :—

The real reasons for the shortage will be available with the Government of India only. But so far as this Government are aware of, the reason may be that refineries in India do not produce adequate quanities of kerosene and High Speed Diesel Oil. As such, limited quantity is imported by private oil companies. In order to conserve foreign exchange, the Government of India decided to cut the import quotas of private oil companies, but they allowed increased imports by the Indian Oil Corporation from rupee exchange sources. The Government of India have assured the State Government that the entire deficit will be covered. Unfortunately the Indian Oil Corporation did not have adequate outlets in Madras State. The private oil companies were at first unwilling to distribute the oil imported by the Indian Oil Corporation. As such, some temporary scarcity of kerosene and High Speed Diesel Oil was felt, especially in those areas which were served from the Cochin port.

The Government of India have issued orders under the Defence of India Rules directing the oil companies to furnish up-to-date stock of oils held by them and instructing the companies to supply and distribute petroleum and petroleum products properly. These orders have been re-published by the State Government It would enable them to keep a close watch on the situation and direct the supply of kerosene and High Speed Diesel oil to deficit pockets. Temporary shortages of these products were noticed more so from Coimbatore and Kanyakumari. The Collectors took effective action to distribute oil through recognised outlets and to control prices. No hoarding was permitted. The retail prices were fixed and notified by the Collectors.

In addition to this, periodical meetings were held by the senior officers of the State Government and the representatives of the Oil companies to review the situation from time to time. At the instance of the State Government, the private Oil companies agreed to distribute the oil imported by the Indian Oil Corporation whenever Collectors found it necessary, It was also agreed that whenever any shortages were reported, the Government would issue directive to any company to rush supplies to that area. The situation is closely watched both by he Government and the Collectors and it is now under control. With the arrivals of more tankers, the situation is expected to improve considerably.

IV.—MOTION UNDER RULE 23 (1) OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RULES.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move—

'That rule 23 (1) of the Madras Legislative Council Rules be suspended and this House do resolve to transact Government Business on Saturday, August 7, 1965 '.